



THE JICARILLA APACHE NATION

P.O. BOX 507 • DULCE, NEW MEXICO • 87528-0507

**Jicarilla Apache
Traditional
Culture
Committee**

Wainwright Velarde
President

Raymond Tafoya, Sr.
Vice President

Dr. Wilhelmina Phone
Secretary

T-002-001

Bryan F. Vigil
Treasurer

*"dedicated to the
preservation
and
perpetuation
of the
Jicarilla Apache
culture
and
traditions"*

August 21, 2009

U.S. Department of Agriculture
ATTN: Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist
RUS, Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1571
Washington, D.C. 20250-1571

Re: Proposed San Luis Valley-Calumet-Comanche Transmission
Project in Southern Colorado

Dear Mr. Rankin,

Thank you for consulting the Jicarilla Apache Nation regarding the proposed San Luis Valley-Calumet-Comanche Transmission Project in Southern Colorado. We would like to participate in the Section 106 process for this undertaking and are more than willing to work directly with Tri-State and PSCo as Section 106 review proceeds. We would like to confirm Jicarilla Apache cultural affiliation with the entire project area.

In addition to the mailing address, I can be contacted at (575) 756-8659 or
jblythe@jicarilla.net.

Sincerely,

Jeff Blythe
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Lorene Willis, Director, Cultural Affairs
President Levi Pesata

T-002-001: NEPA Process (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. has requested financial assistance from the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for their anticipated ownership interest in the proposed San Luis Valley – Calumet - Comanche Transmission Project. RUS has determined that funding Tri-State's ownership interest is a federal action requiring analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

RUS is the lead federal agency for NEPA, and will consult with other federal, state, and local agencies, and affiliated tribes as well as adhere to applicable regulations.

Additional information regarding the NEPA process can be found on the RUS project website at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/envIRON.htm>. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

